Retro #3: Baseball in the 1920s

As baseball season gets underway, St. Stanislaus students will build on their rich heritage. A hundred years ago, baseball was just as important at SSC as it is today. In the 1920s, SSC hosted semi-pro teams in its fine stadium. Some of them used St. Stanislaus fields for their spring training. In 1922, the young Rock-A-Chaw prep team beat the older professional Atlanta Crackers of the Southern League 2-1 in a hard fought game behind the superb pitching of Walter Gex and George Cleveland. The entire student body was given a holiday to celebrate the outstanding victory which was reported in the *Atlanta Journal* as well as the *Sea Coast Echo*.

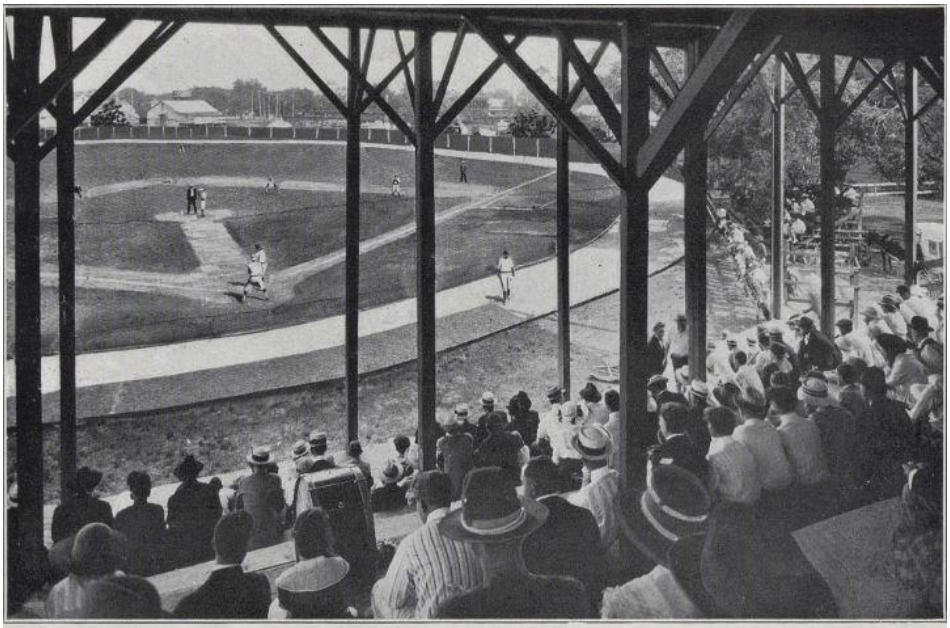
The Sea Coast Echo (Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi) · Sat, Apr 8, 1922 ·
Page 2

WHY THEY LEFT THE NEXT DAY.

Atlanta baseball team, training in Bay St. Louis this spring, left for home Friday night.

Thursday the Crackers were defeated by St. Stanislaus college nine. Score 2 to 1.

Page 1 / 1



SAINT STANISLAUS STADIUM

ATLANTA SCRIBE WITH BALL PLAYERS GOSSIPS OF MEN AND MATTERS.

St. Stanislaus Collegians Joyously Celebrating Legitimate Defeat of Atlanta Southern Team—Mrs. G. Y. Blaize, Local Operator, Gets Deserved Praise—Other Notes of Local People You Know.

(Morgan Blake in Atlanta Journal.)

ST. STANISLAUS COLLEGE is today celebrating the great victory of her baseball team over the Atlanta Southern league team Thursday. The entire school student body was given a holidty and there was a sound of revelry all day long. It was a fine feat for the prep school teamr and one that will be treasured in the school annals until the memory of man runneth not to the contrary. There was not the slightest tint of a fluke about the victory. The Crackers did their level best and it fell short two runs of being enough to get the verdict. The writer congratulates them with all his heart. They played with their heads up and showed absolutely no fear of the older and more experienced opponents, and how that kid infield did go. Ye gods.

S. S. C. PREPSTERS DEFEAT ATLANTANS SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

In Game Played Thursday With the Atlanta Team Here In Training When Score Was 2-1—Defeat Was Legitimate and Decisive.

ATLANTA "JOURNAL" PRAISES ST. STANISLAUS BOYS.

The Professionals Were Just Saved the Humiliation of a Shut-Out —No Professionals Could Have Played as Well as S.S.C. Says Blake.

BY MORGAN BLAKE.
Special to the Atlanta Journal.

Bay St. Louis, Miss., March 31.—It is the said and painful duty of this humble perveyor of sporting news and views to inform you that the Crackers were defeated here Thursday by a "prep" school baseball team. The score was 2 to 1 and the youngsters of St. Stanislaus college clearly earned the victory by their magnificent work in the field and the great pitching of their boxmen. It was probably the last game the Crackers will ever play in Bay St. Louis, because the training camp is to be moved next season and it was the first game they had lost at the Bay since Connie Mack's Athletics defeated them, 4 to 3, two years ago.

The professionals were saved the humiliation of a shut-out when Bernsen doubled in the seventh and scored on Graff's single. Outside of this belated rally the Crackers were as helpless before the twirling of Gex, Cleveland and Philips, the pitching triumverate of the prep boys as a man with the lock-jaw would be at a Dutch supper.

No professional club could have put up such brilliant game in the field as did those striplings on the St. Stanislaus infield. Loewer, third; Keiffer, at short; Martin, at second, and Jaubert, at first, looked like Connie Mack's old hundred thousand dollar infield. Martin made a stop off Carlyle's bat that would have done credit to Eddie Collins and from start to finish Loewer's brilliant stop and rifle bullet throws elicited great applause from the stands. The prep boys got two runs in the first inning and then stopped but these tallies proved sufficient.

A base on balls to Martin, a wild throw by the catcher to catch him napping and a bingle by Fruge scored the first run. Loewer struck out on a wild pitch and Fruge, who had taken second on the throw in, scored. The winners never got a hit after this but the runs they made were all they needed. They settled down and playd an air-tight fielding game, and their three pitchers had the Crackers tied up in a bow knot.

GOOD PITCHING.

The fault for the defeat cannot be laid to the Cracker pitchers, for Williamson, after some unsteadiness in the first inning settled down and pitched good ball until he was relieved by Roberts in the sixth. The young southpaw retired the prepsters in order for the last three innings. Roberts had made a most impressive showing in his work on the training trip. For a southpaw he has wonderful control and he also possesses vast gobs of stuff. If this kid hasn't a fine pitching career ahead of him we miss our guess. It looked like nine Goliath playing nine Davids from a physical standpoint Thursday. The crackers averaged a head taller then their opponents but the Davids had their slingshots well oiled and they laid the Giants low.

The Crackers got five hits as their grand total for the day, Gred Graff got two and Bernsen, Ritter and McClellan got one apiece. The prepsters got two hits. The Crackers played ragged ball in the field and hit like so many old women. The score by innings follows.

Score by innings: R. H. E.
Crackers, ---000 000 100— 1 5 3
St. S. S., ---200 000 00x— 2 2 1

Batteries — Crackers, Williamson, Roberts, McClelland and Chipman for St. Stanislaus, Gex, Cleveland Philips and Fruge.